



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2012

Contact: Lisa Richardson 213-361-6980

Email: lrichardson@bos.lacounty.gov

or

Contact: Lorenza Muñoz, 213-974-2222

Email: lmunoz@bos.lacounty.gov

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ASKS PROBATION DEPARTMENT FOR MONTHLY UPDATES ON STATUS OF RELEASED STATE PRISONERS

LOS ANGELES –The Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a motion today authored by Chairman Mark Ridley-Thomas requiring the county’s chief probation officer to present monthly status reports on the more than 11,000 former prisoners who have been released from state prisons into Los Angeles County as a result of Assembly Bill 109.

This legislation, which passed last year as a state cost-cutting measure, “realigns” the responsibility for supervising convicted felons from the state to the county. This means that many of these former prisoners, known as Post-release Supervised Persons, are required by law to report to county probation officials after their release. Although these individuals committed crimes considered as non-serious, non-violent, non-sex related offenses, they still require continuous oversight as well as rehabilitative services in order to successfully transition back into society.

The motion comes in the wake of a quadruple homicide in Northridge on December 2 that allegedly was committed by a man who had been considered high-risk, gang involved, and who had been receiving mental health treatment. The alleged shooter, Ka Pasasouk, had been arrested and released to probation on a drug violation prior to the murders.

The Board also unanimously passed Supervisor's Michael Antonovich and Zev Yaroslavsky motion directing the chief probation officer to provide a comprehensive written report on the homicide, including any proposed modifications to the county's existing policies and procedures related to Post-release Supervised Persons. In calling for the monthly status reports from the chief probation officer, Chairman Ridley-Thomas also requested that the probation department receive input from the Department of Mental Health and other county departments and agencies that collaborate with the probation department on AB 109. According to a recent report by the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CCJCC), 1,882 individuals were referred to mental health treatment. In addition, the county's chief probation officer must consult with county counsel on any matters related to confidential records and how information is shared with the board.

"The recent CCJCC report indicates that 26% of Post-release Supervised Persons have re-offended within six months," said the Supervisor. "Given that our goal is effective supervision, coupled with rehabilitation services that lead to reductions in recidivism, regular communication to the Board from the Chief Probation Officer will ensure greater insight is brought to the formulation of public policy regarding AB 109."

#